

Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



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the inside Scoop

Binge drinking

Lt. Col. Barbara Stewart, 47 FTW inspector general, warns against basing a good time on how much you can drink.

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Family day

Gen. Hal Hornburg, AETC commander, declares Friday after Thanksgiving a day to reinforce family and friendships.

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Spending thrifty

People should practice smart spending during the holiday season and have a plan for paying off financial obligations.

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Mission status

(As of Nov. 21)

Days ahead(+) or behind(-)



+1.7



- 2.47



- 1.1

Fiscal Year 2001 statistics

--Sorties flown: 9,191
--Hours flown: 13,752.1
--Pilot wings earned in FY 01: 45
--Wings earned since 1963: 11,753

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Airmen donate food to assistance center

By Staff Sgt. Reginal Woodruff

Public Affairs

Enlisted dormitory residents here, lead by an airman from the 47th Operations Support Squadron, gave some residents of Del Rio more reason to be thankful this Thanksgiving.

Airman 1st Class Sean Flansbaum organized a canned food drive, supported by many people in the enlisted dormitory, collecting more than 406 food items that were donated to Bethel Center of Val Verde, Inc. in Del Rio.

"It just seemed like common sense," said Flansbaum. "It's coming up to Thanksgiving and it's a time that people really need. I thought of it one day and went to my first sergeant, (Master) Sgt. (Daniel) Cook, (47th Operations Support Squadron), and asked him if it could be done. He suggested that I get a sponsor so I called the Bethel Center, and they said they needed it."

The Bethel Center is a ministry of 15 congregations and volunteers from the community working together to help people in need. The function of the center is to help people who need food, clothing, medicine, transportation, lodging and utilities assistance.

The center's existence enables congregations and groups in the Del Rio community to help the hungry and homeless with dire emergency needs. Volunteers also work with



Photo by Staff Sgt. Reginal Woodruff

Airman 1st Class Sean Flansbaum and Don Rutledge, a Bethel Center volunteer, carry in one of three boxes of food dormitory residents donated to the center.

other groups and agencies to achieve long-term solutions to the difficult problems of the poor.

"We get regular monthly donations from the churches," said Olivia DeLeon, Bethel Center director, "but we're always in need of more, especially this time of year. This is a time of year many people are re-

quired to recertify their government assistance and some get denied or forget to reapply. Thanks to people like Sean and other people from Laughlin and in the community, of course, those people who would otherwise go without won't have to."

See 'Donate,' page 6

Base branches spirit of giving through Angel Trees

By Jann R. Davidson

Family member

Laughlin began its Angel Tree season Monday with hope of brightening the lives of many children in need this holiday season.

This annual event is a way to provide gifts to children who might otherwise have a very lonely and empty Christmas. The Angel Trees are Christmas Trees located at the base chapel, the Operations Training Complex and the Base Exchange decorated with brightly colored lights and small paper angels. The little angels are the keys to happiness for many children

over the holiday. Each angel has the name of a child in need written on it and represents the child's Christmas wish. The children are boys and girls, three months to 18 years old.

"These trees will supply gifts for needy families in the Del Rio community, as well as five orphanages across the border in Mexico," said Chaplain (Maj.) Frank Hamilton, project officer for the Angel Trees. "What could be more rewarding than helping a child in need? Especially when we who have so much are surrounded by those who have so little. One cannot imagine the gratitude expressed by

these children for even the tiniest present."

To participate, take an angel from a tree and purchase the gift that is requested on the angel. Then return the gift under the tree in a plastic bag with the angel attached. Because some of these gifts are going to Mexico, gifts shouldn't be wrapped. The green angels are for boys clothing; the red angels are for girls clothing, and the white angels are for toys or toiletry items.

Hungry Kids International, Inc. supports the orphanages in Mexico. Chaplain Hamilton explained that HKI operates children's homes and schools for

underprivileged children throughout Mexico. Children there need basic clothing, toys and toiletry items.

Sadly, the beautiful Angel Trees will come down Dec. 13 so Child Protective Services and HKI can sort and transport the gifts to the agencies by Christmas.

Donating a gift to a child in need is the essence of the holiday season and will provide quiet and warm memories during this often hectic time of year.

For more information about Angel Tree, call the base chapel at 5111.

Commanders Corner

Binge drinking not just problem for college students, but some base members as well

By Lt. Col. Barbara Stewart

47th Flying Training Wing inspector general

Once again it's my turn to write an article for Commander's Corner. In this space, the senior leadership (which includes the chiefs) offer sage advice on how to be a good leader, follower, friend or family member. As if we have some kind of corner on the market when it comes wisdom. Maybe people assume we are wise because we've been around so long and we've seen (and in some cases, lived through) the mistakes that can be made early in careers just because people thought they knew more than they really did. After 22 years in the service, I've seen many young people make mistakes – some they could overcome, others they couldn't.

A mistake I see being made over and over again here at Laughlin centers around the college campus at-

mosphere which seems to permeate the base. All throughout the base, on any given day, you can hear talk of the big blowouts people plan on attending, giving or did attend. There is almost a rivalry among some folks to see who can become the drunkest. Unfortunately, this type of attitude has caused some people to lose sight of their better judgement and make mistakes which are the kind they can't overcome. Luckily, no one has died as a result of this rush to "party hearty", but a few came close. Unfortunately, however, some may have killed their careers.

Does that mean we should all become teetotaler and turn our nose up at the mere mention of alcohol? No! It means we have to understand where our limits are and stick by those limits. The point of being a team is that we look out for each other. To use pilot lingo (I've picked up a little in 22 years) we need to check each

other's sixes and be good wingmen. If you are picked to be the "wingman" (aka Designated Driver for the rest of us) for a party, you have two responsibilities. One is to not drink any alcoholic beverages, because you will be driving, and the other is to make sure your buddies don't overdo it. Learn your buds' limits and make sure they stick to them. It might be hard, but consider it a leadership challenge. If any of your buddies makes a major mistake while you are the wingman, you can and should consider yourself partly responsible. You are partly responsible because they were relying on you to be the voice of reason.

Your buddies, on the other hand, have a few responsibilities as well. You need to know your limits and accept you've reached them before you make an error in judgement.

You also need to remember your wingman is looking out for your best interest, and telling him to "get lost" if he attempts to stem your binge, is not fair to the wingman. You've asked them to take on the responsibility, so you need to heed their advice and stop when they tell you to.

If we just make a paradigm shift and realize a party can be good even if no one passes out or throws up in your aquarium, then maybe we can end the string of drunken stupidity that's occurred and start using our good judgement all the time-even at a party.

■ According to a recent Harvard School of Public Health study, more than 44 percent of college-age students engage in binge drinking at least once every two weeks. Of that 44 percent, 2 percent had to receive medical treatment due to alcohol-related ailments.

AETC members deserve time with their families during holidays



A View from the Top



By Gen. Hal Hornburg

AETC Commander

The Friday after Thanksgiving will be a Family Day for Air Education and Training Command. I hope most everyone will be able to enjoy the extra-long weekend with your family and get the upcoming holiday season off to a great start.

Our mission of training and educating the best airmen in the world demands a great deal of time, dedication and just plain hard work from all AETC people.

However, we should make sure our people have the opportunity to develop and strengthen family relationships and friendships. We all need other people – both family and close friends – to have healthy, productive and satisfying lives.

In the larger scheme of things, it's not a very fulfilling life for someone to be a hero at work, yet have a personal life that's empty or falling apart. It's important for all of us to take the leave we've earned and make sure the people we supervise take leave too.

While it's true there will be a few occasions when you absolutely must miss your child's soccer game or band concert

because of Air Force responsibilities, don't allow duties to put your family or personal life at risk.

By the same token, we are all part of a much bigger family than the one with whom we share the car, dinner table and TV remote. There's an old saying I've seen proven many times in my 32-year Air Force career: "Large family, quick help." In the Air Force, we're all part of a very large and helpful Air Force family.

Again and again, when our people face difficulties, I see other Air Force family members come through to help. A young family loses everything in a fire or flood – donations and household items

pour in to get them back on their feet. A serious illness in the family causes hardships – meals and babysitting are offered without a request. I know of no other large company that watches over family members left behind when an employee "deploys" like the Air Force does. It's what we do, and it's the right thing to do.

You should contact your unit first sergeant or command chief master sergeant if you are facing a tough situation or if you're interested in helping others.

Support is available from not only individual Air Force people, but the Air Force community as well. The Airman's

See 'View,' page 6

Col. Winfield W. Scott III
Commander
Capt. Angela O'Connell
Public affairs officer
Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit
Editor

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"Excellence – not our goal, but our standard."

– 47 FTW motto

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Submissions can be E-mailed to: bradley.pettit@laughlin.af.mil or reginal.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil

Levitow leaves Air Force legacy behind

By Senior Airman Oshawan Jefferson

Air Force Print News

America lost a hero Nov. 8 when John L. Levitow, enlisted recipient of the Air Force Medal of Honor, died at his home in Connecticut after a lengthy battle with cancer.

"This was a sad day for our Air Force," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch. "John Levitow for years has been woven into the fabric of enlisted heritage. Through his heroic efforts he was the embodiment of our core value 'service before self.' His name has become synonymous with excellence, and his legacy will continue to live in the hearts and minds of all Air Force members today and well into the future."

Levitow received the Medal of Honor after an incident on Feb. 24, 1969. At that time, he served as a loadmaster aboard a severely damaged AC-47 gunship over Long Binh, South Vietnam. Suffering from more than 40 shrapnel wounds in his back and legs from a mortar blast, he saw a smoking magnesium flare amid a jumble of spilled ammunition canisters. Despite loss of blood and partial loss of feeling in his right leg, Levitow threw himself on the flare, hugged it close, dragged himself to an open cargo door and hurled the flare out. Almost simultaneously, the flare ignited harmlessly outside the door and away from the munitions.

"Sergeant Levitow served during a war in which heroic acts were commonplace, but by any standard, his courage that night was extraordinary," said Secretary of the Air Force Whit Peters. "His selfless actions saved not only his own life but the lives of seven others. For three decades he has been an inspiration to all of our airmen – enlisted, officers and civilians."

In recounting the event, Levitow said he remembered the pilot yelling back to the crew, but didn't remember anything after that.

All members in the cargo compartment were wounded, according to history reports. The aircraft sustained more than 3,500 fragment holes in the fuselage and a two-foot wide hole through the right wing.

"What I did was a conditioned response," Levitow said



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Suban

A military caisson, carrying the body of Medal of Honor recipient John L. Levitow makes the solemn journey through Arlington National Cemetery as the funeral procession follows. Levitow died Nov. 8 at his home in Connecticut after a lengthy battle with cancer.

about the incident in 1998. "I just did it. The next thing I remembered was seeing the landing strip."

President Richard M. Nixon presented the Medal of Honor to Levitow on Armed Forces Day, May 14, 1970, at the White House.

After his Air Force service Levitow continued a close relationship with the military. He spent 22 years devoted to veterans affairs, and later worked in Connecticut developing and designing veteran programs.

Since his heroics in 1969, the Air Force has honored him in many different ways. He has been a part of the Air Force Professional Fitness Exam booklet and as any NCO who has pored over the promotion books knows, Levitow was the lowest ranking airman in history to earn the Medal of Honor.

The Levitow Honor Graduate Award is presented to the top professional military education graduate from Air Force Airman Leadership Schools.

The 737th Training Group Headquarters building at

See 'Levitow,' page 6

RAPCON, control tower help civilian aircraft land safely

By 2nd Lt. Anthony Chu

47th Operations Support Squadron

Base air traffic control and airfield management personnel coordinated to re-open Laughlin's airfield to accommodate a civilian aircraft, which made an emergency landing shortly after completion of wing flying Nov. 15.

The pilot of the single-engine Cessna 210F was en route to Uvalde from Blythe, Calif. when bad weather there forced him to divert. Weather and inoperative runway lights at Del Rio International Airport made that nearby airfield an unsuitable landing site. "Laughlin was my best choice for a safe landing," Larry Russell, pilot of the aircraft, wrote in a statement.

Radar Approach Control controllers maintained communications with Russell and guided him to the runway for a surveillance approach. Despite light drizzle, low ceiling and visibility and an estimated 6 to 10 minutes of fuel remaining, the pilot landed here safely.

"The dispatchers went way beyond what an in-flight emergency required," said Billie Jo Williams, assistant airfield manager.

While Laughlin handled more than 630 emergencies in the past year, averaging 53 per month, the base rarely dealt with civilian aircraft landings. Williams noted that this was the first civilian emergency aircraft to land at Laughlin in the past two years. In that instance, the pilot was also running low on fuel.

"I think we handled this in the most professional way air traffic controllers can," said Staff Sgt. Nathan Kilcollins, 47 OSS, who responded to the pilot's initial call and vectored him to Laughlin. "We tried to talk to the pilot as much we could to keep him calm

See 'Landing,' page 6

Actionline

Call 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your in-

quiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the *Border Eagle*. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.



Winfield W. Scott III
Col. Winfield W. Scott III

47th Flying Training Wing commander

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810
Equal Opportunity	298-5400
FWA hotline	298-4170

Call: I drove to the base exchange and when I got out of my car, I made a sweep through the parking lot to corral two shopping carts left abandoned constituting a hazard to traffic. I took them inside with me and conducted my business. When I came back outside I found another aban-

doned shopping cart blocking my very own car. I returned it to the place it should be. I am surprised to see this kind of sloppiness and carelessness on the part of Air Force people.

Response: First, I would like to thank you for returning the shopping carts

to the inside of the store. The employees here at the BX try to make it a routine to go out at least once an hour to look for shopping carts left in the parking lot. Occasionally, they may miss a few, but will usually collect them during the next hour or at least by the end of the day.

It would be appreciated if all patrons

of the BX would return the shopping carts to at least the front entrance to keep the parking lot from becoming a hazard.

Thank you for your question and continued cooperation in making Laughlin a great place to live and work.

AF pilots learn to fly Russian aircraft

By Staff Sgt.
William Seabrook Jr.
Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Lt. Col. Eric Huppert remembers landing in Turkey as a young pilot and gazing out over the Black Sea toward the Ukraine knowing his enemies were learning how to fly at one of the premier Soviet flight schools located there. He never imagined one day he would attend that very school.

Now, years later, Huppert, the 6th Special Operations Squadron director of operations, along with 19 squadron members, recently traveled to the Ukraine for a month of flight qualification training.

They were learning to fly the Russian AN-26 and AN-32 turbo transport aircraft and the MI-17 HIP troop carrier helicopter at the State Flight School of the Ukraine and the Kremenchog Flight School.

Squadron members attending the course were keenly aware of this school's place in the history of the Cold War, Huppert said. During the Soviet Union's heyday these two schools were responsible for training all Soviet transport and helicopter pilots.

"It was quite an experience just being in an environment like this," Huppert said. "Everywhere we looked there were reminders of the former Soviet Union. There were pictures, monuments to former leaders around base and an aura

of history seemed to permeate from the walls of school.

"We chose these two schools for qualification training because they're the only ... flight schools in the world for the aircraft we were learning," he said.

It is important for squadron members to learn these aircraft because they're widely used worldwide by U.S. allies, said Huppert. Understanding the aviation resources of U.S. allies is a critical component of the 6th SOS mission.

The squadron assesses, trains and assists foreign aviators in interrelated mission areas such as foreign internal defense, unconventional warfare and coalition support.

When conducting tactical training and advisory operations, squadron people focus on the availability, reliability, safety and interoperability of the host nation aviation resources supporting joint and combined operations.

"We certify that a country's aviation program is safe enough for our troops to use it during tactical operations," Huppert said. "In order for us to be able to say a certain type of airframe is safe we must first know how to fly and perform maintenance on it."

This, he said, enhances the U.S. military's ability to accomplish its mission by having more aviation assets available.

(Courtesy AFNEWS)

"We certify that a country's aviation program is safe enough for our troops to use it during tactical operations. In order for us to be able to say a certain type of airframe is safe, we must first know how to fly and perform maintenance on it"

-Lt. Col. Eric Huppert
Hurlburt Field, Fla.



Photo by Master Sgt. Val Gempis

Members of the Yokota Air Base, Japan, Honor Guard prepare to unload caskets containing possible remains of U.S. military personnel from the Vietnam War during a repatriation ceremony here. The remains, including three from Vietnam and two from Laos, were flown here by a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft. The remains were uncovered by members of Joint Task Force-Full Accounting in September.

'We're not leaving,' Cohen says of U.S., Middle East ties

Terrorist attacks such as the Oct. 12 bombing of the USS Cole will not chase the U.S. out of the Middle East nor undermine U.S. military security agreements with nations throughout the region, Defense Secretary William S. Cohen said.

Cohen said the United States will remain engaged globally. "Our security depends upon it," he said. "We intend to take whatever measures are necessary for force protection, but also to apprehend those responsible and hold them accountable. So, we're not leaving."

The secretary is on his ninth trip to the

Middle East, where he will visit with U.S. troops and also meet regional leaders to discuss bilateral security issues, according to senior defense officials. In addition to Bahrain, the week-long mission includes scheduled stops in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Israel, Jordan and Egypt.

Cohen praised U.S. servicemembers worldwide. "I want to thank them for their service, remind them that we understand ... they are moving, operating in a very dangerous region of the world," he said.

(Courtesy AFNS)

Security forces institute new beret policy modification

By Gary Emery

Headquarters AFSAF/PA

Only trained Air Force security forces members are now authorized to wear the distinctive blue beret, reversing a more inclusive policy in effect at security forces units for the last three years.

The beret, which has been a symbol of police authority in the Air Force since 1975, was authorized in 1997 for wear by all mem-

bers of security forces units, including non-SF trained persons in support positions. That change, though, caused some confusion among the base public, according to Brig. Gen. James M. Shames, Air Force director of security forces, and commander, Air Force Security Forces Center.

"The 1997 policy change was made to address the inclusiveness of all SF unit members, that we are all working toward the goal of

force protection - and we are," Shames said. "However, we found that the people on our installations continued to assume those wearing the beret all had the training and authority to arrest or detain people and handle emergency situations. They often thought that the beret still represented what it had in the past "that the wearer was an Air Force security forces member, often armed, speaking with the author-

ity of the installation commander."

The change only affects military members of security forces units who do not carry the security forces career field specialty code, such as those in administration, communications, finance and first sergeant positions, according to officials. Those people will wear the headgear authorized for each uniform combination rather than the beret. Installation commanders will have the authority to

allow locally trained security forces augmentees to wear the beret while performing SF duties.

"Bottom line, we've reverted to the original policy so that everyone knows the wearer has the authority and skills to enforce laws and regulations and respond to emergencies," Shames said. "This change in no way changes our philosophy that force protection is everyone's mission."

(Courtesy AFNS)

The *XLer*



1st Lt. Elizabeth Greenfield
47th Flying Training Wing

Hometown: South St. Paul, Minn.
Family: Husband, Jim.
Time at Laughlin: 1 year, 7 months.
Time in service: 2 years, 6 months.
Name one way to improve life at Laughlin: Offer more cereal choices at the commissary and keep the shelves full!
Greatest accomplishment: Graduating from the Academy and surviving the crazy trip in Europe afterwards.
Bad habit: “Forgetting” to go to the gym.
Motto: It’s all silliness.
Favorite beverage: Milk.
Favorite food: Cereal.
Hobbies: Cooking and watching movies.
If you could spend one hour with any historical figure, who would it be and why? My grandfather – to hear all of his stories from WWII and get his secret hamburger recipe.

Where are they now?

Name: Capt. Travis Burdine.
Class/Date of graduation from Laughlin: Class 99-01, Oct. 1998.
Aircraft you now fly and base you are stationed at: E-3 Sentry (AWACS), Tinker AFB, Okla.
Mission of your aircraft? Command control and surveillance.
What do you like most about your current aircraft? The people. Your crew consists of over 25 different people from different backgrounds, all doing different jobs. There is always someone to go drink a beer with when flying through Europe. Also, when flying in a combat area (Saudi, Turkey, or Kosovo) you have the big picture as to what is going on.
What do you dislike most about your current aircraft?



(U.S. Air Force photo E-3 AWACS)

Due to the Class B security restrictions we do not land at a large variety of bases.
What was the most important thing you learned at Laughlin besides learning to fly? Everyone has good days and bad days. Do not let the bad days at UPT get you down. The really good days are yet to come.
What is your most memorable experience from Laughlin? All the good times we had as a class at the O’Club on Friday nights and all the trips across the border.
What advice would you give SUPT students at Laughlin? There are no bad flying assignments in the Air Force. When it comes time to choose your airplane call any active-duty unit at one of the bases that plane is stationed and ask to speak to any pilot. “What is up? Should I pick this plane?”

Chapel Schedule

- | | |
|---|--|
| Catholic
-Saturday Vigil Mass 5 p.m.
-Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m.
-Confession by appointment.
-Choir 6 p.m. Thursdays.
-CCD 11 a.m., Religious Education Building.
-Little Rock Scripture Study 11 a.m. Sunday in Chapel Fellowship Hall | Protestant
-General worship 11 a.m.
- Women’s Bible Study, 12:30-2:15 p.m. Wednesday at Chapel
Student Wives Fellowship 7-9 p.m. Monday; call 298-7365
-Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. at the Religious Education Building
-Choir, 7 p.m. Wednesday at Chapel |
| Jewish
Max Stool, call 775-4519 | |
| Muslim
Dr. Mostafa Salama, call 768-9200 | Chapel Youth Group
-Sunday, 5 p.m. Chapel Fellowship Hall |

Chapel Staff

- | | |
|---|---|
| Chaplains
Maj. C. Jeffery Swanson
Maj. Frank Hamilton
Capt. Larry Bailey
Capt. Richard Black | Chaplains’ Assistants
Tech Sgt. Donald Williams
Senior Airman Diana Beauvais
Airman 1st Class Christina Deutsch |
|---|---|

“God loves you and we do too.”
For more information on chapel events and services, call 5111.

‘Donate,’ from page 1

According to DeLeon, non-essential items donated are sold at garage sales with proceeds used to buy essential items. Fabrics donated are given to a quilting club that in-turn makes blankets that people can use.

The efforts of Flansbaum and the other dorm residents are

‘View,’ from page 2

Attic helps with basic household items. The Air Force Assistance Fund is ready with loans or grants to help those with needs. Virtually all bases have holiday programs to raise contributions to aid others. And, our assignment system often accommodates families with special-needs children or other unique challenges.

That’s just as it should be. I’m proud to be in this great Air Force family where people always look out for one another. I hope you are too.

(Courtesy AETCNS)

‘Levitow,’ from page 3

Lackland was named in his honor. Air Mobility Command named a C-17 Globemaster III after the Air Force’s most well known enlisted Medal of Honor recipient in 1998. “The Spirit of Sgt. John L. Levitow” is the first to be named for an enlisted person.

Hurlburt Field, Fla., honored Levitow in 1998 by making him part of their Walk of Fame.

Levitow’s burial, with military honors, took place Nov. 17 at Arlington National Cemetery. He was 55.

(Courtesy AETCNS)

about the situation.”

Killcollins also lauded the good decisions made on the part of the tower and RAPCON watch supervisors in keeping the airfield open. “Had we closed five minutes earlier, the pilot probably would have went down,” he said.

“Day in and day out the OSS RAPCON and tower enable the mission - this time they saved a life,” said 47 OSS Commander Lt. Col. Leonard Jankowski. “We are very proud of our professional approach controllers, tower and base operations people who literally talked this civilian pilot down through the weather just minutes before running out of fuel.”

essential to removing the perception that our younger generation is a group of selfish party-goers who think nothing of others.

“It is great to see someone so highly motivated and determined about helping others, rallying the young folks in a combined act of charity and good will,” said Cook. “Their act makes a big

difference for others in the local community not only in the canned goods they provided, but also in the perception of our young enlisted folks. Like it has been said over and over again, one person can make a difference. Airman Flansbaum is living proof, HOOOAH!”

“It was definitely a group ef-

fort,” said Flansbaum, unassumingly. “Many people responded to the flyers I left, which Eric Rios at repro (demand reproduction) helped me put together, and (Senior) Airman (Toby) Pete (47th Communications Squadron) and others volunteered to help pick up all the food. This is something ev-

eryone in the dorm should take credit for and be proud of.”

Flansbaum said dorm residents are planning to donate other items around Christmas, and he encourages everyone at Laughlin to follobobord their lead and do something for someone in need this holiday season.

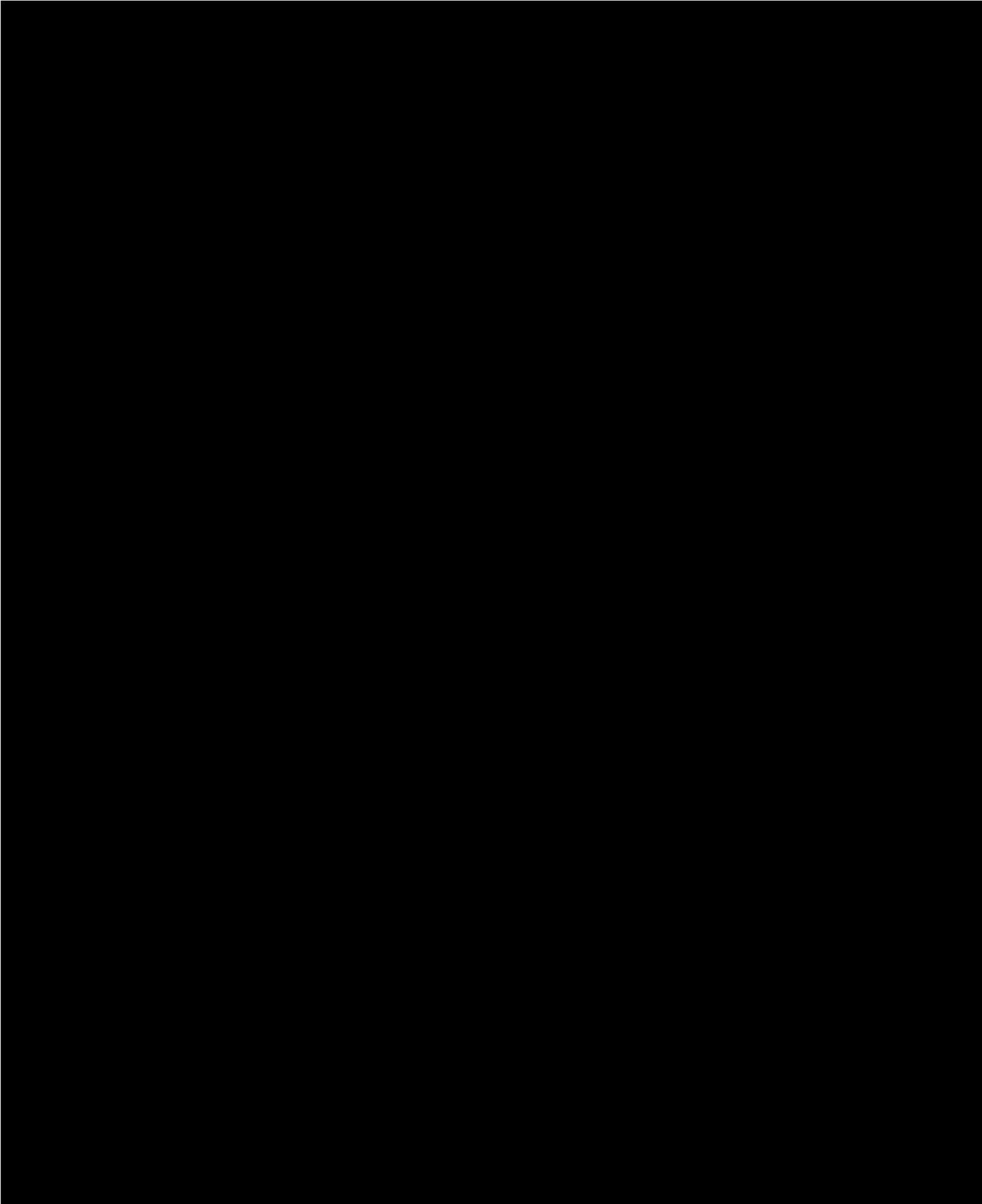




Photo by Airman 1st class Brad Pettit

Setting up shop

(Front left) Bob Bishop, engine regional repair center contract manager and Bob Wood, LCSAM director of maintenance, cut a ribbon signifying the completion of a project to expand production floor space for ERRC in Bldg. 68 during a ceremony here Monday. The facility houses Lear Siegler Services contract activity that reconditions more than 1,000 J-85 and J-69 aircraft engines.

Digging out from under holiday bills

Base legal office offers advice for thrifty

By Capt. Lucy H. Carrillo
41 FFW Legal Office

No, Virginia, there is no Santa Claus. As much as we'd like to believe that the jolly man in the red suit is responsible, we know it doesn't happen that way, and holiday bills will remain long after the tree needles have dried up and fallen to the ground.

It's too late for most shoppers to worry about overspending. Procrastinators will be out in force in the next few days, but for most shoppers, the damage has been done.

By the time the stores close on the day before Christmas, consumers will have racked up nearly \$100 billion in credit-card bills – that's \$145 million an hour, \$450,000 a second – since Thanksgiving.

The good news, according to CardWeb, is that consumers will pay off about 80 percent of their holiday bills by the end of January.

But the remaining \$20 billion, along with existing debt of more than \$500 billion, will remain unpaid and be subject to finance charges – at an average rate of more than 17 percent.

When paying off the bills in full is impossible, consumers should prioritize them to minimize the damage, and avoid quick fixes that can be costly.

If you used several different charge cards, pay in full any that you can, even if they have interest rates lower than some other cards. No interest is better than low interest. Also, as Gerri Detweiler notes in her book, "The Ultimate Credit Handbook," retiring a bill may give you a big psychological boost.

Next, pay off cards with the highest rates as quickly as possible, even if that means making minimum payments on low-rate cards for now.

In general, department stores charge the most interest – often over 20 percent – but some bank cards are equally high, especially if your credit record is less than ideal.

Except as noted below, make some payment on each of your cards, even a minimum one, and do it on time. Missed payments can lead to fees as high as \$30, while prompting the bank to raise your interest rate several percentage points.

Be wary of offers allowing you to skip a monthly payment, according to Consumer Reports magazine. The interest continues to accumulate, so you end up paying more.

Make sure that you understand the terms of any purchase made under a deferred financing promotion. Even if you don't have to make payments for six to 12 months, you must pay the bill in full by the due date or be stuck with interest from the day of purchase.

"Checks" arriving in the mail to help pay off debt are actually loan ap-

plications, and by cashing the check, you are committing to a loan with an interest rate as high 29.99 percent (just barely below New Jersey's legal limit of 30 percent).

In a similar vein, think twice before applying for one of the bill consolidation loans that are being heavily marketed. Although the interest is reasonable, at least compared with credit-card rates, you shouldn't be using the equity in your house to pay holiday bills.

If you can't pay your credit-card bills in full, keep the plastic in your wallet until the bills are paid. That's because most card issuers charge interest from day of purchase – even for new purchases – if there is an outstanding balance from the previous month.

Above all, don't panic. Even though Santa won't help, most consumers can get out from under their holiday debt with planning and willpower.

■ By the time the stores close on the day before Christmas, consumers will have racked up nearly \$100 billion in credit-card bills – that's \$145 million an hour, \$450,000 a second – since Thanksgiving.

PACAF helps Cambodian flood victims

In an effort to aid victims of the worst flood in Cambodia in 70 years, the Air Force is flew eighteen pallets of relief supplies Nov. 21 into Phnom Penh from Uthapao, Thailand.

The supplies were sent to Cambodia following a request from the Embassy of Cambodia on be-

half of the victims.

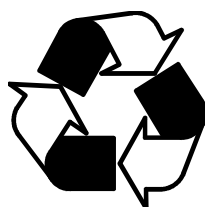
The 36th Airlift Squadron C-130 Hercules that delivered the supplies is stationed at Yokota Air Base, Japan. The squadron makes regular channel runs in the area.

The \$20,000 worth of supplies was donated by non-governmental agencies.

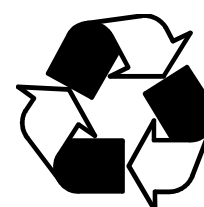
Overseas Humanitarian Disaster Assistance and Civic Aid appropriations paid for the relief flight.

It has been estimated that more than 300 people have been killed to date as a result of the flooding.

(Courtesy of PAF News Service)



Recycle...



Question of the week

What are you most thankful for this Thanksgiving?



"My mother's home cooking and getting to see my family and friends."

2nd Lt. William Wimsatt
86th Flying Training Squadron



"I'm thankful for my family, friends, health and serving my country."

Staff Sgt. Carmaneta Yanosko
47th Mission Support Squadron



"I am thankful for getting to see my family and friends over the Thanksgiving holiday."

Airman 1st Class Christina M. Deutsch
47th Flying Training Wing



"I'm thankful to be with my family and for all of the things that have happened to me in the past year."

Ruben Rodriguez
Sprint PCS



From the Blotter (Nov. 8-18)



■ Law enforcement patrols discovered a suspicious package next to a building near base operations. The investigation revealed the bag belonged to base personnel.

■ The law enforcement desk was notified of two unsecured facilities. After an investigation by police units, the custodians were recalled and secured the facilities.

■ Graffiti was discovered at a Services facility. Unknown individuals had spray painted the walls and mirrors of one of the bathrooms by the softball field. An investigation is underway.

■ The law enforcement desk received a report of a six inch dent to the bumper of a government vehicle. The vehicle was parked at Bldg. 320. If you have information on this accident, contact security forces at 5100. You need not give your name.

■ A Ford Explorer traveling south on Liberty Dr. collided with a Chevy pickup traveling west on Arnold Dr. The impact resulted in disabling damage to both vehicles and injuries to the operator of the pickup truck. He was transported to Val Verde

Regional Medical Center for treatment and was released the same day.

■ An alarm activation was received from the base exchange. Security forces personnel responded and sealed off the building. The reason for the alarm was undetermined.

Tip of the day: Driving is a task requiring your total concentration. Talking on phones, attempting to read a map or even adjusting your radio while you drive may result in a serious accident and even injuries. Ensure before you move your vehicle you have all mirrors, safety belt and radio adjusted. Pull over to the side of the road if you need to read a map or talk on the phone. Concentrate on safe, defensive driving. Help security forces keep you safe.

Safety tip: Runners, joggers and bicyclists need to wear reflective materials during darkness hours. Security forces has received close calls with drivers not being able to see people until they are very close to them. Do not become a statistic! Let them see you!

National Diabetes Awareness Month good time to identify eye problems

By Capt. John Mileski

47th Medical Group

November is National Diabetes Awareness Month – a good time for diabetics to identify potential eye problems.

Diabetes is a complex group of diseases whose primary feature is elevated blood sugar levels.

Over the long term, high blood sugar can damage important organs such as the heart, kidneys, nerves and eyes. Indeed, diabetes is the leading cause of new blindness in the American working age (ages 20-74) population.

The longer you've had diabetes, the more likely you are of developing diabetic eye disease. Annual eye exams are vital to ensure the health of your eyes and vision.

All structures of the eye can be affected by diabetes. Some examples include poor corneal wound healing, early cataract formation, increased risk of glaucoma, eye muscle paralysis and particularly, retinal damage.

The retina, like the film in a camera, is a light-sensitive mem-

brane lining the inner eye. It is responsible for absorbing and converting light into electrical signals. In diabetic retinal disease (or diabetic retinopathy), the small blood vessels nourishing the retina become damaged, causing leakage of blood and fluid. This retinal swelling may be present even with normal 20/

20 vision. As the disease progresses, the retina may no longer receive sufficient blood supply, leading to severe and often irreversible vision loss.

The good news is many of these eye problems can be avoided with proper blood sugar control and regular eye examinations. Research studies conclusively show improving blood sugar control significantly reduces the risk of development and progression of diabetic retinopathy. Your eye care professional will conduct a thorough eye exam to include using dilating eye drops to carefully evaluate your retinal health.

Like many other diseases, early diagnosis and treatment is the key to maximizing your

quality of life. However, even late stages of diabetic retinopathy can be treated with a laser to prevent further loss of vision.

In the meantime, "watch" for the following visual changes that may indicate poor blood sugar control:

- Vision fluctuations.
- Dimming or distortion of vision.
- Constant double vision
- Sudden increase in flashing lights or floating spots

For those not diagnosed with diabetes, visual problems are commonly the first indication you may have the disease. In addition, be aware of the classic symptoms of diabetes: increased thirst, larger than normal appetite, and abnormally frequent urination.

Your eyes are meant to last a lifetime. Diabetics can maintain vision with good blood sugar control and time-appropriate treatment.

If you have diabetes, ensure you obtain an annual eye exam. It is a covered Tricare benefit. If you have any concerns or questions regarding diabetic eye disease, please discuss them with your primary care provider or eye care professional.

For more information on how diabetes may affect your vision, call Capt. John Mileski at 6428.

Military researchers receive top honors

The Institute for National Security Studies honored two military researchers, one a member of the U.S. Air Force Academy faculty, Nov. 13 for their respective papers focusing on environmental security and proliferation of weapons.

Capt. Stephen Kiser and Army Maj. John Nagl authored works on environmental security and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, respectively. The awards were presented at the eighth annual INSS Research Results Conference at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.

Kiser, assigned to the Academy's department of political science, received the Outstanding Academy Researcher Award given annually to a member of the Air Force Academy's cadet wing, staff, or faculty. His paper, "Water: The Hydraulic Parameter of Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa," addressed two case studies of cross-border water contention to illustrate how critical national resources can contribute to instability and potential conflict.

Nagl, of the U.S. Military Academy's Department of Social Sciences, received the Major General Robert E. Linhard Award for his paper, "Defending against New Dangers: Arms Control of

Weapons of Mass Destruction in a Globalized World." Nagl's work examined the consequences of WMD proliferation on strategic arms control and has generated wide interest and recognition.

Nagl's award is an annual honor given for the best research done under the auspices of an INSS grant. The Linhard Award continues the legacy of Linhard, a leader in the formulation of headquarters Air Force policy guidance, strategy and doctrine development and a visionary in national security affairs. Kiser and Nagl's awards were presented by the Air Force Academy's Dean of the Faculty, Brig. Gen. David A. Wagie and Col. Kurt Klingenger, chief of the national security policy division at the air staff. Kiser and Nagl each received a plaque as well as \$2,000 in INSS research support.

"These two authors represent the emerging new generation of national security policy expertise within (the Department of Defense)," said Dr. James Smith, INSS director. "INSS is proud to be part of the growth of that new generation, and I believe the quality of their work bodes well for the future of not only the Air Force, but our nation."

(Courtesy AFNEWS)



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Looks good!

Staff Sgt. Daniel Rincones, 47th Communications Squadron, tries out some authentic Native-American food during a National American Indian Heritage Month gathering at the base chapel Monday.

Back to complete a career:

Missing camaraderie, mentoring, NCO returns from hiatus in civilian sector

By Airman 1st Class Angela Kennedy
Randolph AFB, Texas

Free gym facilities, reliable healthcare benefits, job security and camaraderie are a few of the things active-duty members take for granted every day. They forget that civilians have to join a health club or wait three months for new health insurance to take effect. They don't know about pink slips, lay-offs and cutbacks. They may not realize that to many supervisors on the "outside," they become only a number.

They take for granted their safe gated community, where crime is practically unheard of and everything they need is just around the block.

One person in the Randolph AFB, Texas community briefly experienced the civilian way of life and has returned to the Air Force with a newfound sense of pride and appreciation.

Staff Sgt. Lin Allen entered the military in aerospace physiology almost 10 years ago. As a first-term airman, she became tired of the many temporary duty assignments associated with her career field and being stationed at a base she didn't care for.

At the three-year mark, she jumped at the opportunity to cross train. The only specialty open at that time was personnel. She entered the career field and stayed in it for six years until she felt she reached her maximum potential.

That is when she started to ask herself the big question, "Is separating from the Air Force the right move for me?"

She discussed it with her husband, a training instruc-

tor at Lackland AFB, Texas. Together they weighed all their options. She did her research, sent out resumes and had potential employers waiting in the wings.

In August 1999, she separated from active duty and became a "weekend warrior" personnel specialist in the Air Force Reserve. Wanting to get back in the medical career field, she accepted a position with a contracting company working for NASA.

She was working with the same type of flight suits and equipment as her previous career in aerospace physiology while earning the equivalent of her staff sergeant pay.

Things were good; however, she had to commute weekly to Houston. On the weekend, she would drive back to San Antonio to be with her husband and to fulfill her Reserve obligations.

"We did our remote tours together in Korea, so we were familiar with being three hours away from one another," said Allen. "We thought we could do it."

However, the isolation from her husband and the out-of-pocket expenses for two separate households were wearing on the 27-year-old.

"Being out there on my own was kind of scary. I went into the Air Force straight out of high school and for the first time I was totally independent," said Allen. "I had been comfortable in the Air Force. I realized I took a lot of things for granted."

Allen then decided to move back to San Antonio to be with her husband. She took a job working as a technical writer only a few minutes from her home.

"Even though I was getting paid the same amount of

money and was close to home, I still wasn't happy," Allen said. "I was missing the camaraderie and the mentoring I got from the Air Force. The caliber of people just wasn't the same."

"I also missed the job security. Both of the jobs I had were contracted out. I always thought in the back of my mind, 'What if the contract gets cancelled?'"

After eight months and two jobs, she knew what she really wanted. She prepared a list of questions and headed into a local recruiting office.

She wanted to find a job in the medical field, but the only specialty with a staff sergeant opening was her old career field of aerospace physiology. With a promise that she would not return to her old base, she took the offer.

"It was a very lateral move. I enjoy aerospace physiology and knew this was the right thing for me," said Allen.

Feeling rejuvenated, Allen put her Air Force flight suit back on in June.

"Coming back here and working with all the young airman makes me feel revived. I can definitely do another 10 years," she said.

"Life is good here in the Air Force. You are provided with everything you need. It's a part of the core values for them to assist you, because you are one of their own, a family."

She said she now realizes what is really important about serving her country and the true meaning of "military benefits."

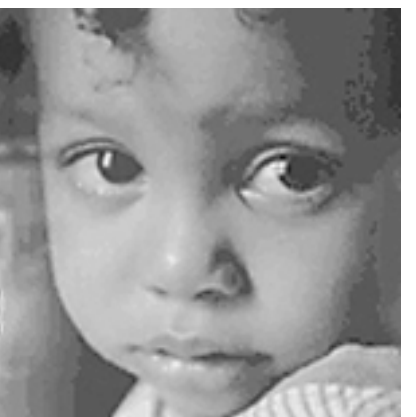
"You can never say 'no one cares' because the Air Force has the structure to care, whether it's your supervisor, first shirt or commander. They all consider it a part of their job to help you or just listen."

(Courtesy AETCNS)

"Even though I was getting paid the same amount of money and was close to home, I still wasn't happy. I was missing the camaraderie and the mentoring I got from the Air Force. The caliber of people just wasn't the same."

Drinking & Driving
Puts Kids
at Risk

Unbuckled Children & Impaired Drivers...
A DEADLY MIXTURE



Officers' Spouses' Club moves into new phase of evolution

By Kathy Scott

Officers' Spouses' Club

What is the role of the Officers' Spouses' Club in this new century?

Maybe this question has been answered for us, but we haven't been able to recognize it through all the other issues being discussed.

Yes, times are changing. More spouses than ever have joined the full-time working force. More spouses are expected to volunteer in our off-base communities. More homeowners are expanding the "base community" into the suburbs surrounding our air bases. And, more wives than ever are being tugged into a highly stressed schedule by attending school or their family's activities.

These issues have, and are bringing about an OSC evolution, but they do not make extinct nor change the role of the Officers' Spouses' Club.

As Air Force dependents, we are transient by the nature of our active-duty spouses' job. We make changes in our yearly routines due to the many PCS orders. Our best advantage of military lifestyle is our **adaptability**. We move, we adapt; we move again, and we adapt a little more. Sometimes it is easier to adapt to our new base and surroundings and sometimes the change has a more drastic effect on us, as well as our families.

Spouses, as a group, are a vast resource for one another. The sharing of experiences, information and friendships is primary to the spouses of military personnel. This is not a new reality, our military mothers and grandmothers found it helpful and healthy to gather and share. Who else would better understand our unique lifestyle and needs?

This social sharing we find in our OSCs is what has made our organization worth existing, as well as allowing it to continue in the dawn of this new millennium. Having fun, making friends and helping one another is not extinct.

Did you know that the mili-

tary, especially in the Air Force, is the only worldwide organization that has a formalized system to help the employee's spouse and family? We have the worldwide Family Support Center, the local enlisted and officers' spouses' clubs and the smaller and more cozy support of squadrons and flights. We have amazing resources at our fingertips!

The Air Force does ask a lot of its employees and their families, but they provide them the support whenever or whatever their needs may be. As a 'stay at home warrior', I experienced this personally during Desert Storm. My husband was deployed for 10 months and I don't know how I would have survived without my military-based support system, both in the squadron and in the OSC.

One spouse had a baby while her husband was gone and we all chipped in with baby-sitting for her other child and with meals. We all **knew** what it was like to be left behind. The OSC has and will continue to be a vital part of the support system. My hope is that each of us not only takes the time to help build, but to take advantage as well. Yes, perhaps an evolutionary process is occurring and will continue to occur, but our **adaptability** will enable the OSC to be of service to us all.

To gather socially is good. However, our nature as world travelers is to extend ourselves to those in and beyond our scope of experience. The idea of reaching out to those in need has been so important to the international OSCs that board positions have been established to head up such activity. Most of our social gatherings are geared toward charity fund raising whether it is to publicize an upcoming charitable project or to actually raise the money for the OSC charitable budget, which has been set up by our organization.

The Thrift Shop is our primary fundraiser. Other fundraisers such as art auctions, jewelry sales, silent auctions and cookbooks are but a few of the many other ways in which OSCs have raised money.

Each has a unique location, and thus a unique surrounding community. However, our OSCs do support some of the same charities. More than half of the welfare funds are extended to on-base recipients. We contribute funds to deserving students via scholarships, to the Red Cross and the chapels, to the Family Support Center and to youth activities.

Our off-base donations are also a large part of our welfare budget. Here In Del Rio we contribute to local schools and youth activities and the women's shelter.

We do make a difference in our world, both on and off base.

However, with our changing times and less volunteer hours available by all of us, our charitable budget and outreach seems to also be going through an evolution. Our major fundraisers are becoming fewer and farther between. Our Thrift Shop is constantly looking for volunteers. And, the OSCs ability to spend time with the charitable organizations is dwindling.

The OSC boards throughout the world are becoming more inventive and are using alternative fundraisers to continue valuable outreach to those around us in need. It can be done, but perhaps differently due to the cli-

mate of the times.

We can, as a group of concerned military spouses, meet the challenge of a changing time. All of us may have to break with tradition and explore new ways to achieve our goals in this new millennium.

Extinction only comes with the inability to change. We are an **adaptable** group; our lifestyle proves it. As long as our organization evolves both socially and philanthropically, the international OSCs do have a role today: that of a strong and beating heart extending our warmth and nourishment to all parts of the globe, both near and far.

Why I joined the Air Force

Name: Senior Airman David Reeves.

Organization: 47th Comptroller Flight.

Hometown: Houston, Texas.

His story:

I separated from the Air Force Jan. 12, 1997 and came back Oct. 13, 1998. Job security and retirement were being revamped and the pay was being improved.

The Air Force was my first "out of home" experience. I wanted to see what was on the other side of the fence. But, what I saw left a lot to be desired. I saw my friends going from one company to another and worrying about job security. I realized just how fragile their futures really were. When a person gets laid-off, the house payment is still due. There may also be more than one mouth to feed.

When I separated I realized that no matter how well you do your job out there, you are replaceable. I worked as an IMA reservist dur-

ing my break in active duty, so I was not in exactly the same boat as my civilian counterparts. However, Reserve pay was not as good, and I missed being active duty. So, it was not a very difficult decision for me when I was offered the opportunity to return.

Lessons learned: If you do decide to stay in, invest and become one of the few Americans who can actually retire at the ripe young age of 38 to 48, depending on how old you were when you entered service and how long you decide to stay, if you stay in past 20. Even if you don't invest, you can still count on a retirement check, which should more than cover a house payment on a very nice house.

Career goals: I am one year away from a bachelor's degree, which I plan to finish during my third enlistment.

Advice: Do a good check on benefits and pay on the outside before you jump ship. And, consider all the benefits!



Laughlin's NFL: Gridiron Gurus								Week 13	
PLAYERS	Bruce Bond	Diane Bond	Eric Gonzales	Michael Houston	David Isbell	Lavelle Jenkins	Eric Linneman	Amanda Stewart	Chad Workman
LAST WEEK SCORE	9	8	6	11	8	9	9	10	7
OVERALL SCORE	80	73	66	74	62	70	79	69	61
NEW ENGLAND@DETROIT	DET	DET	DET	DET	DET	DET	DET	DET	DET
MINNESOTA@DALLAS	MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN
BUFFALO@TAMPA BAY	T.B.	T.B	T.B.	T.B.	T.B.	T.B.	T.B.	T.B.	T.B.
CHICAGO@NEW YORK JETS	NYJ	NYJ	NYJ	CHI	NYJ	NYJ	NYJ	NYJ	NYJ
CLEVELAND@BALTIMORE	BAL	BAL	BAL	BAL	BAL	BAL	BAL	BAL	BAL
MIAMI@INDIANAPOLIS	MA	MA	MA	IND	MA	IND	MA	MA	MA
NEW ORLEANS@ST. LOUIS	STL	STL	STL	STL	STL	STL	STL	STL	STL
PHILADELPHIA@WASHINGTON	WAS	PHI	WAS	WAS	WAS	WAS	PHI	WAS	WAS
PITTSBURGH@CINCINNATI	PIT	PIT	PIT	PIT	PIT	PIT	PIT	CIN	PIT
ATLANTA@OAKLAND	OAK	OAK	OAK	OAK	OAK	OAK	OAK	OAK	OAK
TENNESSEE@JACKSONVILLE	TEN	TEN	TEN	TEN	TEN	JAX	TEN	JAX	TEN
DENVER@SEATTLE	DEN	DEN	DEN	DEN	DEN	DEN	DEN	DEN	DEN
KANSAS CITY@SAN DIEGO	K.C.	K.C.	K.C.	K.C.	K.C.	K.C.	K.C.	S.D.	K.C.
NEW YORK GIANTS@ARIZONA	NYG	NYG	NYG	NYG	NYG	NYG	NYG	NYG	NYG
GREEN BAY@CAROLINA	G.B.	G.B.	CAR	CAR	CAR	CAR	G.B.	CAR	CAR

Air Force couple help define skydiving as a sport

By Michael T. Moseley
Air Mobility Command

Although they were married in 1992, Master Sgt. Dena Danner, a flight engineer with the 70th Air Refueling Squadron, and her husband Gary didn't really "fall in love" until five years ago.

That was the beginning for Dena and Gary, as they jumped from a perfectly good aircraft for the first time at the Skydance Skydiving School in Davis, Calif.

"I knew it was a stepping stone in [my wife's] life," Gary recalls.

Dena adds, "I was hoping he'd back out at the door. Then, I could console him and I

wouldn't have to do it."

"I did it just to help her out," Gary continues. "I figured I'd do it only once. However, when I saw the look on her face after she landed, I knew we were hooked."

For the past five years, the couple has trained making up to 32 practice jumps a month in preparation for the six tournaments that they enter each year.

Three years ago, the skydiving duo joined up with another husband-wife team, David and Linda Becker, so they could compete in the four-way formation skydiving division of the national championships.

"You have to know exactly

what your teammates are going to do next," Gary says of the competition. "Because you can't hear or speak to each other up there, you just have to be in sync."

The judges in skydiving competition place forty formations into a pool from which they draw a series of formations for each team to perform. Of the forty formations, twenty-four of them are called block formations, while the remaining sixteen are referred to as random formations.

"Block formations require a start, a middle and a finish," Gary explains.

According to the Danners,

at least two people in the formation will keep contact – hold on to each other – while one or more of the team rotate and float into a new position in the formation. Because of this, block formations have the highest level of difficulty.

Random formations require the team to make only one point of contact. Between each random formation, the team must show a complete separation. That is, every member must

completely separate from the others before regrouping for the next formation.

Having taken first place in the recreational category competition their first year and second in the intermediate category for the past two years, Dena and Gary are ready to move up to the advanced category for next year's championships.

"We're going for the gold," Dena says with confidence.

(Courtesy AMCNS)

Intramural Flag Football Standings

AFC TEAMS	WIN	LOSS	RECORD CONFERENCE/NONCONFERENCE	POINTS FOR/AGAINST
47 OSS	6	0	5-0/1-0	65/15
EAST INC.	3	2	2-1/1-1	34/32
MDG	3	2	2-2/1-0	44/26
47 MSS	3	3	1-2/2-1	70/43
84/85 Tweets	2	3	1-2/1-1	40/91
LCSAM	0	5	0-4/0-1	25/75
NFC TEAMS	WIN	LOSS	RECORD CONFERENCE/NONCONFERENCE	POINTS FOR/AGAINST
LSI JETS	5	0	4-0/1-0	109/18
87 TALONS	4	1	3-1/1-0	52/15
47 CES	4	2	2-2/2-0	78/55
86 RIOS LOBOS	3	3	3-2/0-1	43/62
COM/CONS/SVS	1	6	1-4/0-2	40/71
47 SFS	0	7	0-4/0-3	26/123

Laughlin history

Q: In early 1965, ATC replaced its 55-week, 252-flying hour program with a 30/90/120-hour program. The new program added a light plane phase. Is the following statement true or false?

The correct answer is ... True. Adding the T-41 to the program allowed ATC to cut two weeks from UPT and reduce the expensive jet hours from 252 to 210. During the latter part of 1972, ATC no longer required graduates of AF Academy and ROTC flight instruction programs to go through flight screening. In May 1973, flight screening was centralized at Hondo.

Leave donations

Jorge A. Espino, 47th Operations Group, is in need of annual leave donations. Due to a medical emergency, he must be away from work for an extended period of time.

Annual leave donations are also being requested for Daniel Anderson, Medical Administrative officer, 934 Operations Group, Minneapolis ARB, Minn. He has been approved as an annual leave recipient under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program.

Anderson recently had surgery for stomach cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy and other medical care. He will soon exhaust his personal annual and sick leave. He is requesting donated annual leave to help cover his absences for his continuing medical treatment and care. Anderson, an Air Reserve Technician major, is continuing his work as his personal health allows.

If you wish to donate annual leave, call Carlos H. Trevino at 5375.

Air Force Aid Society

The Air Force Aid Society awarded more than \$7.5 million in education grants last year to 5,000 college students. Don't automatically think you won't qualify for this \$1,500 grant. The Society has tailored the program based on reasonable standards that fit Air Force families.

Call 5109 for more information, or stop by the Family Support Center.

American Legion

The Del Rio/Laughlin American Legion Post 298 will hold its regular meeting Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at "The Barn" across from Laughlin's Main Gate.

Discussion about the membership drive and Christmas parade will be topics.

Anyone interested in veteran and military affairs and benefits is invited to attend.

If you are currently active-duty and on honorable status, you are eligible to join.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Bookin' it!

Leticia V. Reyes shelves books at the Book Mark Library Tuesday as part of her duties as a library aide. The Book Mark Library is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. and closed on holidays.

Come join us!

For more information, call Cmdr. Murry Kachel at 298-2097, or visit www.delrio.com/~mkachel/al/index.htm.

Honor Guard

Laughlin's Honor Guard needs seven new members. The Honor Guard is an integral part of honoring our military members alive and deceased. The Laughlin Honor Guard affords the opportunity to help members understand more of the traditions and customs of the Air Force.

For more information, or to join this elite group of Air Force supporters, call Staff Sgt. Anthony Williams at 5159.

Manpower manning

The Air Force Manpower and Organization function is seeking qualified enlisted personnel to retrain into the manpower career field, 3U0X1.

Personnel possessing a good mathematical background and who are in a balanced or overage AFSC, in grades staff sergeant through master sergeant with 4 to 15 years of service, are prime candidates.

For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Johnny D. Hall at 5736.

Golf tournament

The Laughlin Fall Classic Golf Tournament will be held Dec. 9 beginning at 8 a.m. at the Leaning Pine Golf Course.

The tournament is a four-man, best ball scramble. The entry fee is \$25 and includes complementary breakfast, lunch and beverages. Green fees and cart are not included.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Proceeds from the event will go to support Operation Jingle, the Amistad Pregnancy Care Center and the Laughlin Top 3.

To register, or for more information, call Master Sgt. Timothy Griffin at 4376 or Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Polillo at 5812. People interested must register by Dec. 6 to participate.

Environmental facts

All organizational fuel tanks must be marked with fuel type and "No Smoking" signs that are visible from all approaches with lettering large enough to be read from a distance of 50 feet.

All bulk storage tanks (over 660 gallons) must be provided with a secondary means of containment for the entire contents of the largest tank plus sufficient free board for precipitation. The secondary containment must be impermeable to petroleum products.

For more information on base environmental regulations, call 2nd Lt. Nathan Fannesbeck at 4389.

Tricare Dental Program

As of Nov. 17, the MPF Customer Service will no longer accept DD Forms 2494 and 2494-1 dental enrollment

applications. Direct customer inquiries to the contractor for Tricare Dental Program enrollment, i.e., coverage benefits and pay deduction queries will be directed to the contractor. United Concordia Companies begins on-line dental enrollment application functions Dec. 4. However, coverage will not be effective until Feb. 1, 2001. UCCI will take over the new TDP administration, i.e., eligibility, enrollment, payroll allotment authorization, resolution and claim disputes.

If your identification card will expire anytime from now until December 2000, reissue may be required affecting enrollment/coverage.

If you think you may need or want dental insurance, come see MPF customer service to sign up before the deadline.

For more information, visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/deers.

Employee benefits

The Federal Health Benefits Open Season begins Monday and ends Dec. 11. This is your opportunity to make changes on your current health insurance policy or to change to a different health care provider. FEHB guides and plans are available at www.opm.gov/insure. This web site is updated daily to reflect the most current information. All transactions must be done through Benefits and Entitlements Service Team, so try not to wait until Dec. 11 to make your changes because the lines could be extremely busy. The telephone number for BEST is 1-800-997-2378.

For assistance, or if you have any questions, contact Carlos Trevino at 5375.

BOP program

Effective immediately, the Volunteer Enlisted CONUS Assignment program is rescinded. The Base of Preference program has been expanded to provide additional PCS opportunities as incentives for airmen continuing an Air Force career.

The application is similar to the current process for updating an assignment preference worksheet, AF FM 392.

For additional inquiries please review the Military Personnel Flight Homepage or call Outbound Assignments at 5628.

Basketball team

The base varsity basketball team is forming. All Laughlin members, including family members, are welcome to participate. Tryouts for the team are held Tuesday and Nov. 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the XL Fitness Center.

The team is scheduled to participate in a tournament in San Antonio Dec. 1-3.

Anyone interested in playing or coaching should contact, Staff Sgt. Ennis Fowler at 5633.